

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) Centralized method for resolving resource conflicts occurring when shareable resources which are at least partially allocated by at least one resource using client (5,6) are requested by a resource demanding client (7), wherein, in order to resolve resource conflicts, a negotiation process with said at least one resource using client (5,6) and said resource demanding client (7) about future rights of allocating said requested shareable resources is performed, and wherein said negotiation process is based upon a process of tracking and/or storing relationship information between said shareable resources allocated by said resource using client (5,6) and client operations of said resource using client (5,6) using said allocated shareable resources, said relationship information specifying which client operations have to be terminated in order to de-allocate a particular amount of shareable resources requested by said resource demanding client ~~how much of the resources allocated by a resource using client is needed by a specific client operation.~~

2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently Amended) Method according to claim 1, characterized in that said negotiating process is based upon a determining process of a client status of said resource using client (5,6).

4. (Currently Amended) Method according to claim 3, characterized by asking the resource using client (5,6) or a user of said resource using client (5,6) about releasing at least a part of its allocated shareable resources and/or about terminating said client operations

using said allocated shareable resources to determine said client status of said resource using client (~~5~~, ~~6~~), said asking process being performed on the basis of said tracked and/or stored relationship information.

5. (Currently Amended) Method according to claim 4, characterized by refusing to provide shareable resources to said resource demanding client if said resource using client (~~5~~, ~~6~~) refuses to release its allocated shareable resources and/or if said resource using client (~~5~~, ~~6~~) refuses to terminate said client operations using said allocated shareable resources.

6. (Currently Amended) Method according to claim 4, characterized by instructing said resource using client (~~5~~, ~~6~~) to release its allocated shareable resources and/or to terminate said client operations using said allocated shareable resources if said resource using client (~~5~~, ~~6~~) accepts to release its allocated shareable resources and/or if said resource using client (~~5~~, ~~6~~) accepts to terminate said client operations using said allocated shareable resources.

7. (Currently Amended) Method according to claim 1, characterized by asking said resource demanding client (~~7~~) whether insisting on a shareable resources demand.

8. (Currently Amended) Method according to claim 1, characterized by acting according to a configurable default reaction mechanism if said resource using client (~~5~~, ~~6~~) refuses to participate in said negotiating process, refuses to act according to results of said negotiating process or is not capable of participating in said negotiating process.

9. (Currently Amended) Method according to claim 8, characterized by preempting said resource using client ~~(5,6)~~ from its allocated shareable resources as a default reaction mechanism.

10. (Original) Method according to claim 8, characterized by terminating said client operations using said allocated shareable resources as a default reaction mechanism.

11. (Previously Presented) Method according to claim 6, characterized by providing said deallocated shareable resources of said resource using client to said resource demanding client.

12. (Currently Amended) Method according to claim 1, characterized in that said negotiating process, said step of determining said client status of said resource using client ~~(5,6)~~ and said step of providing said shareable resources to said resource demanding client ~~(7)~~ are coordinated by a central unit ~~(3)~~ having access to said shareable resources.

13. (Currently Amended) Host ~~(3)~~ providing shareable resources for performing specific client operations, which are assignable to resource using clients ~~(5,6)~~ being connected to said host ~~(3)~~ respectively, ~~characterized by~~ comprising:

an extracting means for extracting client status information of a resource using client ~~(5,6)~~, processing means being connected to said extracting means for processing said extracted client status information,

providing means being connected to said extracting means and said processing means for providing said shareable resources to a resource demanding client ~~(7)~~ and/or to a client operation assigned to said resource demanding client ~~(7)~~,

wherein said shareable resources providing process is initiatable or refusable by said processing means according to said extracted client status information and is also based upon tracking and/or storing relationship information between said shareable resources allocated by said resource using client (5,6) and client operations of said resource using client (5,6) using said allocated shareable resources, said relationship information specifying which client operations have to be terminated in order to de-allocate a particular amount of shareable resources requested by said resource demanding client ~~how much of the resources allocated by a resource using client is needed by a specific client operation.~~

14. (Previously Presented) Method according to claim 9, characterized by providing said deallocated shareable resources of said resource using client to said resource demanding client.

15. (Previously Presented) Method according to claim 10, characterized by providing said deallocated shareable resources of said resource using client to said resource demanding client.